AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A nucleic acid purification method wherein

a nucleic acid capturing tip incorporating the solid phase containing a nucleic acid capturing agent is used to allow said solid phase to capture a nucleic acid and to extract the nucleic acid,

said nucleic acid purification method characterized in that washing solution is fed in the tip containing the solid phase capturing said nucleic acid unidirectionally from the head to the end.

Claim 2 (original): A nucleic acid purification method according to Claim 1 wherein the flow path leading to said nucleic acid capturing tip is provided with a branch of a washing solution flow path where a washing solution is supplied.

Claim 3 (original): A nucleic acid purification method according to Claim 1 further characterized in that a special-purpose flow path is provided to lead a washing solution into said nucleic acid capturing tip.

Claim 4 (original): A nucleic acid purification method according to Claim 1 further characterized in that air is sent into said flow path.

Claim 5 (original): A nucleic acid purification method according to Claim 1 further characterized in that discharge of washing solution and feed of air are repeated alternately.

Claims 6-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (New): A nucleic acid purification apparatus comprising:

a nucleic acid capturing tip incorporating a solid phase containing a nucleic acid capturing agent; and

a nozzle that allows contact of said solid phase with a nucleic acid containing solution to further cause said solid phase to contact with a washing solution, wherein said nozzle sends air to said solid phase after said solid phase and said washing solution were mutually contacting.

Claim 13 (New): A nucleic acid purification apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said tip allows contact of said solid phase contact with eluent after sending said air.